

THE GRANGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 62

EDITOR: CONNIE MASTERS

JANUARY 1996

From Flo

December 7th: what a night! We gathered; Grange volunteers, AGO trustees, Volunteer Committee Executive, Council members and staff, to unveil Harriette in George Weston Hall. Six members of the Dixon family came too. Following the speeches, we adjourned to The Grange.

What a party! Elizabeth Chish-Graham's team did a superb job. The house looked beautiful in its Christmas finery. Shift members met each other. Former volunteers made the past alive. The Dixon family discovered each other and we all celebrated having Harriette recognized as the first donor of the Gallery and in place in George Weston Hall.

I would like to remind you of the upcoming Enrichment dinner on Tuesday, January 23, (please note change of day from Monday). A guaranteed stimulating and fun evening with the combination of Pleasance Crawford and the cooking of Kettledrum!

Would you please give consideration to some extra volunteering. If everyone does just one shift we can meet our commitments for Spring Break and Oh! Canada. The sign-up sheets are in the sitting room.

Thanks again for all your support and for making The Grange such a wonderful place.

ART IN BLOOM

If you have any time to spare during Art in Bloom (April 25 - 28, 1996), visit the Volunteer Centre and offer your services.

REMINDER

Oh! Canada Exhibition

**February 16 - May 5
1996**

Please remember to read the bulletins boards.

VOLUNTEER ENRICHMENT
& EDIFICATION

(or some dates to remember)

Thanks to our indefatigable Training Chairman, Helvi Hunter, we have some very interesting events awaiting us in the new year.

Tues. Jan. 23 at 5:30 pm.

First Grange Enrichment Dinner of 1996. Grange alumna, Pleasance Crawford, author and garden historian, returns to The Grange. Her subject - "Guilding the Lily; Ornament in Ontario Gardens". Her talk is preceded by one of Kettledrum's delicious dinners.

Future Enrichment Dinners (topic TBA) Tuesday, Feb. 20, March 19 and April 23.

LET'S DO LUNCH

- on Tues. Feb. 6 at the University Women's Club, St. George Street and Bloor, followed by a visit to the Bata Shoe Museum (practically next door) to see the 19th century shoes.

Cost (for lunch only, museum is free) \$18. Please make cheque payable to Diana Weatherall and leave in envelope on notice board in staff sitting room.

ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SEMINAR CELEBRATES
YONGE STREET'S 200TH BIRTHDAY

Helvi calls it "a unique opportunity for super learning!"

The Simcoe Legacy: the Life and Times of Yonge Street.

-Fri. Feb. 16, 6:30 - 9:00 pm.

-Sat. Feb. 17, 9:00 am.-4:00 pm.

Registration Fee

-OHS members \$30 before Jan. 22
\$50 after Jan. 22

This fee applies to all Grange volunteers as The Grange is a member of the OHS.

The fee includes a kit of resource materials, Friday evening reception and Saturday lunch. Please make cheques payable to the Ontario Historical Society.

The seminar will be held at the Metropolitan Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, just north of Bloor.

For complete details telephone the OHS 226-9011

THE GRANGE NEEDS YOU!

1. During the "Oh! Canada" exhibition the house will be open on Friday evenings from 4:00 - 8:00 pm. from February 16 to May 5. The "Oh! Canada" meeters and greeters will staff the house, but one experienced Grange volunteer is needed to supervise.

Sign-up sheet is on notice board in Staff Sitting Room.

2. It's that time again - March Break, and this year it's for two weeks, and the Gallery will be open Monday and Tuesday March 11 and 12, and 18 and 19. We need 5 volunteers for each day if the house is to open, so please help if you have some time to spare.

Sign up sheet is waiting for you on the notice board.

THE HISTORY OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME

BY JOHN B. HOGGESS, LL.D.
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

NEW YORK: PUBLISHED BY J. B. HOGGESS, 1871

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NEWS OF GRANGERS

Arrivals

- Lee Richmond, a much needed recruit for Daily Pursuits

Departures

- We are sorry to say goodbye to Annie Smitt, Wednesday evening, who has returned to Boston after completing her university course.

Welcome Back

- It's great to have Pat Robertson back on Wednesday night after her illness.

Wedding Bells

- for Matina Katsafados, Saturday. Her co-volunteers broke out the champagne, and gave her a framed copy of Henri Perre's portrait of The Grange (what else?)

A GRANGE MISCELLANY

As requested, a Korean translation of the Introduction to The Grange leaflet is now available in the front hall table drawer, along with the other translations. Our thanks to John Kim of Emmanuel College

Notice any damage to the house, cracks in the plaster, an artifact in need of repair? From now on please note any unpleasant discovery on a list posted in Peggy's office. If we all take responsibility for immediately recording problems, we will be able to keep the house in great shape.

A supplementary Reading List has been prepared as part of the new Grange Volunteer-in-Training program, and many long time Grangers have expressed interest. Copies are available in Flo Morson's office.

DID YOU KNOW - ?

The handsome mahogany chest of drawers in the best bedroom, made in Ireland circa 1795, was a gift to The Grange from Mary Jackman, mother of the present Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Honourable H.N.R. Jackman, and AGO Board of Trustees member, Eric Jackman.

William Berczy's portrait of the famous Indian leader, Joseph Brant, that hangs in The Grange Music Room, is a copy - the original is on view at the Thomson Gallery.

NEWS FROM THE HERITAGE FRONT GOOD AND BAD

First, the good news.

Toronto City Council, on the advice of the Toronto Historical Board, has designated several Toronto properties to be of architectural and historical importance.

In other words, these sites are protected from changes that would not be in keeping with their historical character.

Two of the buildings are in Cabbagetown - the Winchester Hotel (1866) on Parliament Street, and 35 Spruce Street (1860).

In downtown Toronto, the former warehouses and stables built between 1895 and 1913 at 5 and 11 St. Joseph Street, and 15 St. Nicholas Street for Rawlinson Cartage, were designated, as they exemplify commercial architecture at the turn of the century.

In the west end, 267 Indian Road has been designated, the first building in Toronto designed by Eden Smith, one of Canada's most celebrated architects of the early 20th century. It was Smith's first home here, and a prototype of his designs in the "English Cottage" style.

And now the bad.....

It is always sad to write of the closing of a museum. Come May 1997, the Ontario Agricultural Museum in Milton will turn off the tractor and close the stable doors. Opened in 1979 by the provincial Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, its purpose was to stimulate public awareness of the evolution of Ontario agriculture and to preserve its heritage. The fate of the museum's 55 buildings and substantial collection of artifacts and archival material is as yet unknown. The province expects to save \$1.8 million through this closing.

AVRIL STRINGER DIVES INTO THE ARCHIVES - AND COMES UP WITH SOME INTERESTING FINDS

GRANGE COSTUMES-CORRECT OR NOT

The costume worn on the night of "the unveiling" aroused considerable discussion. Avril Stringer, chair of research, was asked to investigate.

We have an interesting article written by Camilla Rees for The Grange in 1991 "A Survey of Servant Clothing in Upper Canada during the 1830's."

The article points out that since female servants were normally "behind the scenes" no uniform was devised for them until well into the Victorian era.

However, in the early nineteenth century, as the supply of male servants dwindled, female servants began to be more visible - waiting at table, answering the door, ushering guests (exactly the services Grange volunteers would perform at functions like that of the Harriette unveiling).


Mrs. Rees details dress for the parlour maid, "It was crucial that she in particular be neat and tidy at all times. A plain cotton gown of one colour with a tidy plain muslin collar and clean white apron."

The subject of what was worn on the head is mentioned in general under Women Servants: Upper Rank, "caps were generally made of muslin and embroidered with, or trimmed, in lace."

It seems, therefore, The Grange volunteers were half right. If one can call the "pancakes" caps, then they are O.K. The aprons would also seem to be O.K. The fichus, however, should be "tidy collars".

Since we do not have "tidy muslin collars" and few people feel comfortable wearing the "pancakes" I would suggest that our regular day costumes would be suitable for evening functions.

Ref. #15. Volunteer in Training Reading Collection.



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THE BOULTONS & THEIR BOOZE

The original accounts book from Wm. Proudfoot's store (years 1827-37), in the Metro Reference Library contains the Boulton accounts. I have been trying to get an idea of life at The Grange from the purchases listed. The picture that emerges is somewhat vague. Obviously the Proudfoot store was not the only source of Grange necessities; however, there are some interesting items listed which often raise questions rather than answers but are interesting.

For example: Christmas 1827 sounds pleasant, D'Arcy Jr. bought 1 gallon of Sherry on Dec. 3rd, and 38½ gallons of Port on the 24th, also on the 24th geese at 4/4½. The port cost £22.19.0, a substantial amount. Add these purchases to the 10½ lb. Stilton cheese bought in the fall and -- sounds good to me.

Going back to "booze" purchases From July 1828 to Aug. 1829 whiskey (presumably rye whiskey) was bought regularly and usually by the gallon.

July 7, 1828	- 1 gallon
13,	- 1 gallon
Aug. 20, 1828	- 1 gallon
28,	- 1 gallon
Sept. 12	- 2 gallons

Then, for some months only, there were only single bottles, until July 15, 1829, 1 gallon, and Aug. 12, 3 gallons. It was fairly cheap 6d. and 7½d. a bottle, 2/- a gallon.

Around this time D'Arcy Jr. was buying a lot of building supplies - shingles, bricks, nails, red lead, white lead,

paint, brass knobs--so obviously something was being built, one of the out buildings perhaps! During this 1828 to Sept. 1830 period, the purchases of wines and spirits were sparse.

July 1828	- 1 gal. Brandy	5/-
Oct.	- 1 gal. wine	13/-
Nov.	- 1 gal. Port	12/6
Dec.	- 2 gal. Brandy	10/-
Feb. 1829	- 1 gal. Wine	9/-
Mar.	- Gin	2/-
May	- 1 gal. Wine	9/-
Aug.	- 1 gal. Wine	9/-
Sept.	- 1 gal. Wine	9/-
	(Teneriffe)	
Oct.	- 1 gal. Wine	9/-
Nov.	- 1 gal. Wine	9/-
May, 1830	- 2 bot. Madeira	3/9
Sept.	- ½ gal. Madeira	8/9

In Nov. 1830, 35 gals. Port costing £21 with a cask to put it in for 5/-

For 1831 the story is the same, just the odd gallon of wine and 6 doz. bottles of claret on June 15, then Sept. 17, 1831, had an intriguing entry - "Wine & Brandy to William - 12/3". Does this indicate Wm. Henry was involved in some function? On Sept. 12, one pair white kid gloves had been purchased by or for Wm. and on Oct. 6 "One fine Hat" recipient unknown. Wm. Henry would have been almost 20 at this time. From Oct. 1831, there was a dry period, through to Jan. 1833, with only 6 doz. corks purchased May 7, 1832 (use not stipulated).

These accounts continue to June 1837 with Brandy, Madeira, Port, misc. wine being bought only infrequently. With the one exception of July 18, 1834, of a purchase of 33 gallons of whiskey! The price by this time was down to 1/10½ per gallon.

AVRIL ALSO DRAWS TO OUR ATTENTION -

The revision of the manuscript "Portraits in The Grange" is now complete and will be put back in the library. This makes interesting reading as it talks not only of the sitter but the artist, his skill, technique, etc., and what can be seen in and deduced from the picture.

The report on William Henry's Waste Book is also complete and will be put in the Research Books.

Two requests for checks on Boulton family members - one originating in England the other in Manitoba - are yet to be done. (The Manitoba town Shellmouth - does not appear in my atlas. I would appreciate help in finding it. I can then write to the local or nearest library).

The article on Women's Rights is still awaiting checking.

LIBRARY NEWS

New in the Library:

- Away by Jane Urquhart.
- Fashions and Costumes from Godey's Lady's Book Edited with introduction by Stella Blum.
- The Virginia Housewife, or Methodical Cook: a facsimile of an authentic early American cookbook, by Mary Randolph.

-Potash: Canada's First Export Industry: a collection of articles and information on the potash industry in Upper Canada in the 19th century. Grange Research Committee.

Many thanks to Dorothy Dixon for the gift of the following books:

- The Gallery of English Costume
- The Rise and Fall of the Sleeve, 1825-1840: by Naomi E.A. Tarrant.
- The Housekeeping Book of Susanna Whatman, 1776-1800.
- Wedding Dress, 1740-1970 by Madeleine Ginsberg.

A REQUEST FROM OUR LIBRARIANS

When returning books to the library, please do not re-shelve. Cross your name off in the register, and leave book on desk.

PERIODICALS & MAGAZINES

Do you know that The Grange subscribes to eight periodicals/magazines?

They are available and in the library for your enjoyment and edification

They are:

1. Antiques (The Magazine Antiques) U.S. publication.
2. Canadian Horticultural History
3. Century Home
4. Heritage Canada
5. History News The Magazine of the American Association for State and Local History.
6. Ontario History Journal
7. The Beaver
8. The Upper Canadian

Antiques! new to The Grange

Starting this month we are now subscribing to Antiques! a Canadian periodical. Its in the library for your perusal. We would like to know what you think of it. Loraine Warren, (Wednesday library volunteer) has researched some of the back copies to find articles that would be of particular interest to Grange volunteers.

May/June '93.

- Thomas Chippendale
- The Subtle Lure of Silver

July/Aug '93

- Worcester Porcelain
- Niagara-on-the-Lake - Post 1813 architecture.

Nov/Dec. '93

- Clothing Storage Furniture

Jan/Feb. '94

- The Victorian Period

Jul/Aug. '94

- The Grandfather of all Clocks

Nov/Dec. '94

- The Christmas Card in Canada

Mar/Apr. '95

- The Many Styles of Silver

Jul/Aug. '95

- Early Canadian Toys

Sept/Oct. '95

- 18th c. Porcelain in Canada

Nov/Dec. '95

- Of Epergnes & Elegance

A DATE TO REMEMBER

(or rather 3 dates to remember)

DISCOURSE & DESSERT-SPRING 1996

Thursday - March 14,

- March 28

- April 11

at 1:30 pm.

A series of lectures on the bringing back to life of three old Toronto gardens at Spadina, Casa Loma and St. James' Cathedral.

Watch for the next issue of the Newsletter for complete details.

DON'T FORGET Sunday, March 24.

It's Harriette's birthday. Come in and help us celebrate. Birthday cake will be served to all visitors, of course.

